

QHIA Weekly Update: September 16, 2016

Hello QHIA families,

We had an exciting week with the beginning of our **Improv Theater class taught by Hunter Wallraff, a guest teacher from West Arts in Santa Cruz**. Hunter has taught Improv at our site for the past few years, and brings a wonderfully inclusive and fun energy and teaching style that has the kids being brave, laughing hysterically, and supporting each other in no time! Half of our class does Improv with Hunter while I teach the other half ceramics. We also started our Hamilton study in depth as a primary resource. The kids are already singing the first song, "Alexander Hamilton" together (completely independent of me) and a few would like to teach each other a dance that is choreographed to "My Shot".

***Great News:** I heard from Mt. Hermon, and we will be receiving a 50% refund from our total cost paid!

***Photos:** I am still collecting photos! Thank you to those of you who have sent them my way. I will be creating a digital photo album on our website some time next week. It will be great for the students to have access to these photos in one place as we begin learning how to use them in google presentations and Animoto Videos. Reminder: If you object to having your child's photo on our class website, please email me directly.

Checking in with your students: As we wrap up our first month of recorded attendance, I want to remind you to please check in with your students regarding their classwork, which also can be homework or work for Fridays when not completed in class. I try to make it clear what the expectations are in a few different ways:

- Writing it down on the board for students to see and copy down for themselves (some have been putting it on their phones)
- Highlighting Assignments at the end of each weekly update
- Under the Assignments tab on our class website.

I will send a separate email regarding attendance reporting, work samples, etc. Look for that early next week. **Thank you for signing your student's attendance sheet and getting it turned in on time!**

All important info, including All Student Assignments and our calendar of events, will be accessible at any time here. Just click on this link:

[QHIA Website](#)

Here are some important dates and info to be aware of:

Next Week (September 19-23):

- Monday: Shireen Doyle will be our guest teacher while I am returning from Boston.
- Thursday: Thrill the World practice begins in the cafeteria on the tricampus at 3pm! (It will begin on our campus the following Monday, September 26, in the dance room at 3pm)
- Tuesday and Thursday: Our fellow Quail Hollow site students, Quail Hollow Homeschool, will begin their classes in rooms 14 and 16 with our teachers Katie Parmenter and Gillian Blair between 9:30-1:30.

Update:

Math and Physical Science

I have created, and will continue to create each individual student's math "class" via CK12. They worked hard on **Math Benchmarks** this week which I will use as a guide for skills placement, in addition to the work they've been doing on their online program.

In Physical Sciences we finished up our unit on Motion, and will branch out into other areas next week.

***See Assignments at the bottom of this email.**

History and English

We are finishing up our study of the French and Indian War as a cause of the American Revolution, and discussed everyday life for colonists during this time period. Next week we look

at other sources of unrest, and different perspectives on Liberty and Loyalty, continuing to use the musical "Hamilton" as a primary resource as well as powerpoints, group discussion and note taking skills. We also began our first novel that we will read together, "The Wednesday Wars". Julia was our first student to share a current event. The topic she chose was the Zika virus in Puerto Rico. Students turned in the Writing Benchmarks, which I will be looking over and handing back with individual mini lessons on how to improve their writing and take it to the next level.

Thank you for sharing your students with me!

~Amber

Mark your calendars! Upcoming QHIA and Charter Events:

[Monday, September 19:](#) Shireen Doyle, charter parent/teacher is subbing for me

[Thursday, September 22:](#) **Thrill the World** practice begins in the cafeteria on the SLV tricampus at 3pm! (It will begin on our campus the following Monday, September 26, in the dance room at 3pm)

[Wednesday, September 28, 11:30-1:30:](#) QHIA and QH Homeschool Picnic and Potluck on the field

[Friday, September 30, 10:30-2:30:](#) All Charter Capture the Flag at Quail Hollow Ranch from 10:30-12:30, Potluck with all charter families from 12:30-2:30.

[Tuesday, October 4:](#) Middle School Movie Night with CRMS: 6:00-8:30pm in our QHIA room. We will watch "Holes".

Friday, October 21, 1:00-3:00pm: All Charter Skate Day at the SC Roller Palladium

Video we watched in class:

[Cast of "Hamilton" performs at White House](#)

Cool Happenings out and about!

[September 17: Great Local Community Service Opportunity](#)

[Coastal Clean Up Day](#)

[September 24: Fashion Art Santa Cruz](#)

<http://www.fashionartsantacruz.com/>

Due Now

Online Account Info

I would like students to keep their online account info, for their CK12 program and their student email accounts, in one place, such as in a googledoc or on their phone. All students will learn how to create a googledoc, if they don't yet know how, next week. This is important because they will be getting more usernames and passwords for programs such as Animoto in the future, and we all know how confusing it can be to keep track of them all :)

CK12 Science: 4.1: Motion, 4.2: Distance, 4.3: Direction, 4.4: Speed

Student had time to complete this in class, although some may need more time.

Their instructions are to read the lesson and handwrite the answers to the review questions at the bottom of the lesson page.

After that, they can complete the OPTIONAL online "Practice" of concepts learned.

If a student needs more time to complete, just let me know.

Student Reflection from Exploratorium Trip!

Students are asked to reflect on 3 things from the field trip. The reflection can be just written or typed, or it can include photos, could be a google presentation, animoto, etc (some of the students know how to use these programs, others do not yet-but they will learn in class :)

1. Brief summary of Strandbeest Exhibit: Who is Theo Jansen? What is a Strandbeest? When did he begin creating them? Where did they originate? Why did he create them? How does he create them? What did you enjoy about the exhibit?
2. What was your favorite/s exhibit/s? Please include why.
3. Which exhibit/s demonstrated an intersection between science and the arts? Please include how they are both.

Writing Benchmark

I sent home paper copies of the writing benchmark. I have also shared it via googledocs to their student email accounts, and to the parents via a link on the most recent weekly update. This is a baseline essay, so I can determine how to enhance their writing, next steps for each individual, etc. Brainstorming ideas with others (parents, siblings, classmates, etc.) is encouraged, however let the students write this on their own. It can be handwritten or typed. Please let me know via email if your child needs to dictate first, or has other accommodations to help with their writing.

Click on the link for the googledoc that explains the assignment:

[Fall 2016 Writing Benchmark](#)

Math Benchmark

Most students have been working on this in class a little bit each day all week. Some have opted to bring it home, which is also fine. Please turn in by said due date. If more time is needed, just let me know.

Ongoing

Solo History Project

We brainstormed many ideas for individual history projects that the students will present at the end of the first semester. Students should have settled on a topic, and they can begin outlining, gathering sources, info, etc. at any time. This will be ongoing throughout the semester.

CK12 Math

All students should be writing down the odd numbered review questions at the end of each lesson; pencil to paper.

*I am at the point where I begun creating individual math "classes" on CK12 for each student so they can work and progress at their appropriate level.